



As soon as stalks of grain start sprouting, so come the insects to feast. However, farmers have found an ingenious way to protect their crops -- the perching method. They put small tree branches at different points for birds to perch on, and the avian friends do the rest. During their brief stay, the sparrows and magpies scan for insects, and in turn, feast on them. Using this natural method means that no pesticide is needed. This photo was taken at Khulna's Dumuria upazila recently.

Two killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

Two people were killed and another was injured in road accidents in two districts yesterday.

In Bogura, a lawyer was killed after an oncoming truck hit his motorbike in Kahaloo area. The accident occurred on Bogura-Dupchanchia road.

The victim -- Mahbubur Rahman Faruk (65) from Dupchanchia upazila -- was an assistant public prosecutor.

In Rajbari, easy bike driver Rajab Bappari (35) was killed and another injured as the auto-rickshaw and a truck collided head-on on Dhaka-Khulna highway.

Govt to amend Food Safety Act

Officials tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is planning to amend Food Safety Act-2013 to regulate all types of food businesses, officials said yesterday.

The amendment will help prevent wastage of food and ensure ethical promotion of food products, said Rezaul Karim, a member of National Food Safety Authority (BFSA), at a discussion held at Jatiya Press Club.

"We have been working to amend the existing law to bring food businesses under regulation," he said.

Gen-lab, a youth-based social enterprise, and H&H International Foundation organised the discussion.

Speakers said per capita food wastage in the country is around 75 kg annually, according to Food Waste Index. The majority of the food is wasted at restaurants. There are around 60,000 restaurateurs registered with Bangladesh Restaurant Owners Association.

Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hossain, a former election commissioner, said, "There is a need for awareness programmes, especially in educational institutions."

Gaibandha-1 MP Shamim Haider Patwari stressed on ensuring safe food. "The state must control food system. To do this, the government can work with private sector."

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